

Date	Action
September 10, 1999 .....	Commission notifies applicant that its application has been accepted and specifies the need for additional information and due date.
September 15, 1999 .....	Commission issues public notice of the accepted application establishing dates for filing motions to intervene and protests.
September 30, 1999 .....	Commission's deadline for applicant for filing a final amendment, if any, to its application.
September 30, 1999 .....	Commission notifies all parties and agencies that the application is ready for environmental analysis.

Upon receipt of any additional information and the information filed in response to the public notice of the acceptance of the application, the Commission will evaluate the application in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and take appropriate action on the application.

Any questions concerning this notice should be directed to William Guey-Lee at (202) 219-2808, or email at [william.gueylee@ferc.fed.us](mailto:william.gueylee@ferc.fed.us).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-21500 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-191-000]

#### Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Elk River Loop '99 Project

August 13, 1999.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) in the above-referenced docket. It also addresses alternative routes for the proposed pipeline.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The EA concludes there is an environmentally preferable alternative and requests comments about it.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of about 15 miles of 16-inch-diameter pipeline loop and appurtenances in Anoka and Sherburne Counties, Minnesota.

The purpose of the proposed facilities would be to provide about 23,873

million British thermal units per day of natural gas to meet increased market demand served by Northern's Elk River Branchline. Minnegasco, a Division of NorAm Energy Corporation and Northern States Power Company—Minnesota have contracted with Northern for this incremental service.

The EA has been placed in the public files of the FERC. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-1371.

Copies of the EA have been mailed to Federal, state and local agencies, public interest groups, landowners crossed by the proposed route or the alternatives, interested individuals, newspapers, and parties to this proceeding.

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments before the date specified below. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send *two* copies of your comments to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label *one* copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-112;
- Reference Docket No. CP99-191-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before September 13, 1999.

Comments will be considered by the Commission but will not serve to make the commentator a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation

should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Paul McKee in the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC Internet website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-21490 Filed 8-18-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11574-000; Connecticut]

#### City of Norwich, Department of Public Utilities

#### Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment

August 13, 1999.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for an original minor license for the Occum Hydroelectric Project, located on the Shetucket River in New Loudon County, Connecticut, and has